



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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March 1, 2007

## **GOVERNOR TO UNVEIL AIR GUARD'S NEW AIRCRAFT**

BRADLEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, EAST GRANBY, Conn. – Maj. Gen.

Thaddeus J. Martin, Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National

Guard announces the arrival of the new C-21 aircraft for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing in a Roll-Out ceremony on Saturday, March 3, 2007, 1:00 p.m. at the base.

The 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing is receiving the C-21s following the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) decision to remove the unit's current A-10 aircraft and maintain the facility and personnel for other missions.

Governor M. Jodi Rell and the Connecticut delegation led a year-long battle with the Department of Defense following the announcement finally securing the C-21 as an interim step to the new Joint Cargo Aircraft mission for Bradley in July 2006.

The C-21 is a twin turbofan engine aircraft operated by a crew of two. The aircraft can carry eight passengers, 3,153 pounds of cargo, has a 2,306 mile maximum range and 530 mph top speed. The aircraft is the military version of the Lear Jet 35A business jet. In addition to providing cargo and passenger airlift, the aircraft is capable of transporting patients during aeromedical evacuations.

The C-21 transport aircraft being transferred from the active duty Air Force will supplement and then replace the A-10 Thunderbolt II's the Air National Guard currently flies from Bradley.

(MORE)

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“The C-21 represents a positive step forward for Connecticut. This allows us to successfully turn the BRAC adversity into an opportunity as we position the Connecticut Air National Guard’s 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing ahead of the pack to meet the future needs of the United States Air Force,” said Martin. “Due to the hard work and efforts of the Governor, Attorney General and the Connecticut delegation we secured our future for the next 25 years.”

The C-21 aircraft is considered a bridge to the future airlift mission to keep the unit flying until 2011 when the new Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) is expected to be purchased and fielded.

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(For entry onto the base please contact Maj. George Worrall at 860-292-2506. Due to security measures, please allow sufficient time for vehicle searches prior to entering the base.)

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